



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1216.0 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/09/2010

Summary

Main Features

PURPOSE OF THE ASGC

The main purpose of the ASGC is for collecting and disseminating geographically classified statistics. These are statistics with a 'where' dimension.

The ASGC provides a common framework of statistical geography which enables the production of statistics that are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

In practice, statistical units such as households and businesses are first assigned to a geographical area in one of the seven ASGC structures. Data collected from these statistical units are then compiled into ASGC defined geographic aggregations which, subject to confidentiality restrictions, are then available for publication.

The purposes of this publication are to outline the ASGC structures, describe the codes and names of geographical areas used and depict the statistical relationship between different types of geography used in the classification.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Geography in Canberra on (02) 6252 5888.

About this Release

A classification system, designed and maintained by the ABS, which divides Australia into geographical areas for the purpose of collecting and disseminating statistics. It provides details of the statistical geographical areas effective at 1 July 2010 and includes maps of these areas.

Contents

CONTENTS

Introduction

- Classification Structures

- Spatial Units

- Summary Tables

- ASGC Structural Chart

- Principles of the ASGC

- Definition of Australia

Main Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Local Government Area Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Statistical District Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Statistical Region Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Urban Centre — Locality Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Section of State Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Remoteness Structure

- Purpose

- The Structure

- The Spatial Units

Mesh Blocks

- Purpose

- The Spatial Units

Special purpose ASGC codes

- Purpose

- Main Structure

- Statistical Region Structure

Use of the ASGC in publication of ABS statistics

- Guidelines

Maintenance of the ASGC

- Introduction
- ASGC-related material and products
 - Introduction
 - ASGC-Related Products and Services
- The Outcome from the ASGC Review
 - Introduction
 - The ASGS
- The Classification Structures
 - ASGC Classification Structures
- Maps
 - 2010 ASGC Maps

Introduction

[Contents >> Introduction](#)

INTRODUCTION

- Classification structures
- Spatial units
- Summary tables
- ASGC Structural chart
- Principles of the ASGC
- Definition of Australia

This section contains the following subsection :

- Classification Structures
- Spatial Units
- Summary Tables
- ASGC Structural Chart
- Principles of the ASGC
- Definition of Australia

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Classification Structures

[Contents >> Introduction >> Classification Structures](#)

CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURES

The seven interrelated classification structures of the ASGC are:

- Main Structure
- Local Government Area Structure
- Statistical District Structure
- Statistical Region Structure
- Urban Centre/Locality Structure
- Section of State Structure
- Remoteness Structure.

Each of these structures serves a specific purpose and is individually discussed in Chapters 2-8.

In Census of Population and Housing years (e.g. 1996, 2001, 2006), all structures of the ASGC are defined. In intercensal years, only the first four structures are defined.

The Main Structure, the Statistical Region Structure, the Section of State Structure, and the Remoteness Structure cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The other structures cover only part of Australia. The structures are hierarchical, with different structures having different numbers of levels (see Table 1). Each hierarchical level is made up of one type of geographical spatial unit. The spatial units at each higher level are aggregations of the spatial units at the previous lower level.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Spatial Units

[Contents](#) >> [Introduction](#) >> [Spatial Units](#)

SPATIAL UNITS

The various geographical areas, or spatial units, which build the different classification structures are as follows:

- Census Collection District (CD)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)
- Statistical Division (SD)
- State and Territory (S/T)
- Statistical District (S Dist.)
- Local Government Area (LGA)
- Statistical Region Sector (SRS)
- Statistical Region (SR)
- Major Statistical Region (MSR)
- Urban Centre/Locality (UC/L)
- Section(s) of State (SOS)
- Remoteness Area (RA).

During Population Census years, the smallest spatial unit is the CD. It is the basic building block of the classification structures. Between censuses, the smallest spatial unit is the SLA. Thus for those years when a census is held, all the above spatial units are defined. In intercensal years, all units except CDs, UC/Ls, SOS and RAs are defined.

These spatial units are individually explained in Chapters 2-8.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Summary Tables

[Contents >> Introduction >> Summary Tables](#)

SUMMARY TABLES

The various ASGC structures and their component spatial units are shown in the following table:

TABLE 1, SUMMARY OF ASGC STRUCTURES

ASGC Structure	Hierarchical LevelsComponent Spatial Units	Covers whole of Australia?
Local Government Area	4CD,SLA,LGA,S/T(a)	No
Statistical District	4CD,SLA,SSD,S Dist(b)	No
Main	5CD,SLA,SSD,SD,S/T	Yes
Statistical Region	6CD,SLA,SRS,SR,MSR,S/T	Yes
Section of State	3CD,SOS,S/T	Yes
Remoteness	3CD,RA,S/T	Yes
Urban Centre/Locality	2CD,UC/L(c)	No

(a) Only that part of the S/T which comes under the responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council. (See Chapter 3).

(b) Areas covered by S Dist only.

(c) Areas covered by UC/L only.

The number of spatial units in the various ASGC structures current at 1 July 2010 are shown in the table below:

TABLE 2, SUMMARY OF ASGC SPATIAL UNITS AS AT 1 JULY 2010 (a)

Spatial Unit	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	OT	Aust.
S/T	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
SD	12	11	13	7	9	4	2	2	1	61
SSD	50	45	36	20	28	8	10	8	1	206
SLA	199	209	475	127	154	43	65	114	3	1 389
LGA(b)	152	79	74	70	139	29	16	—	—	559
S Dist.(c)	12	7	10	—	4	2	—	1	—	36

MSR	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	14
SR	22	14	13	6	7	1	1	1	1	66
SRS	25	14	27	6	7	3	2	1	1	86

(a) Does not include Off-Shore Areas & Migratory.
(b) Unincorporated Areas are not included.
(c) Counted in predominant state or territory.
Note: _ nil or rounded to zero (including null cells).

[Previous Page](#)

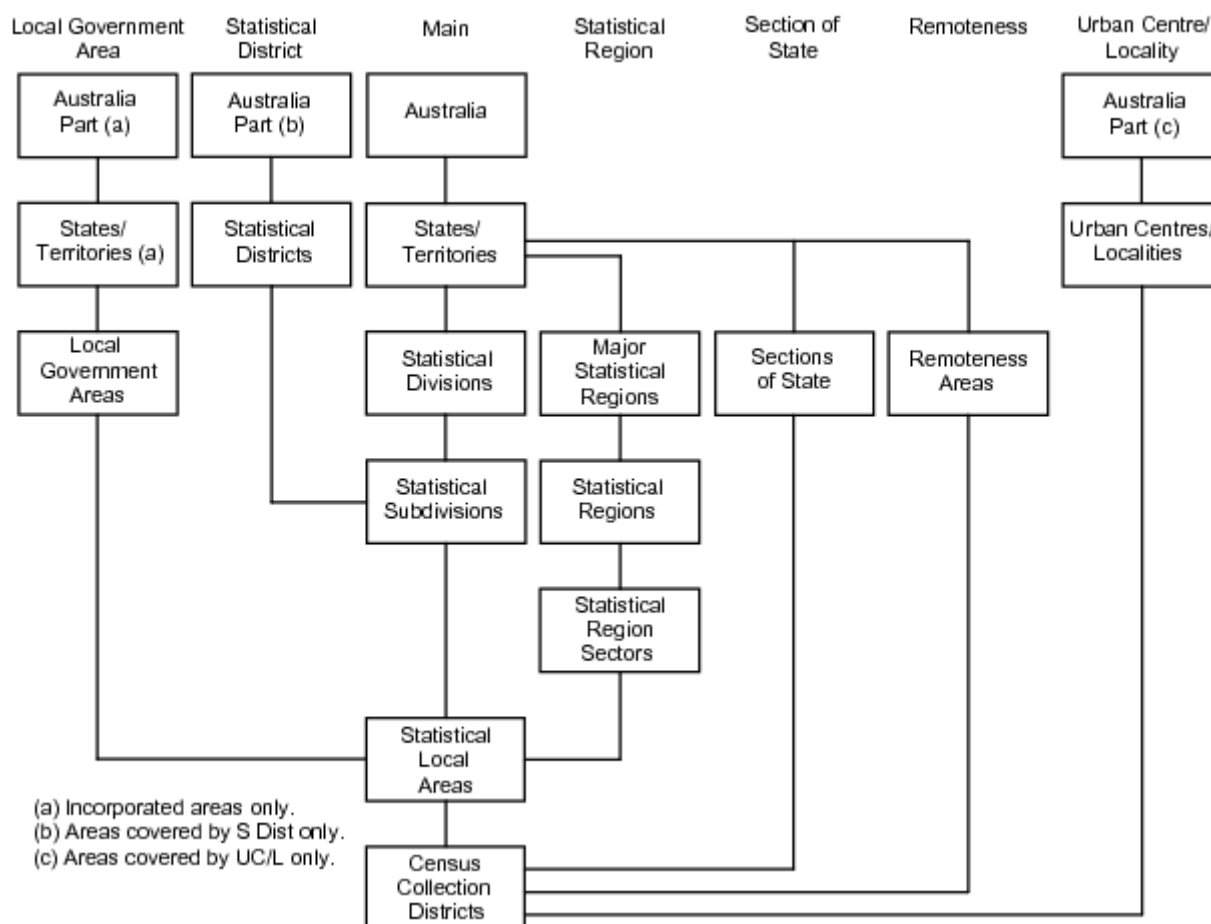
[Next Page](#)

ASGC Structural Chart

[Contents](#) >> [Introduction](#) >> [ASGC Structural Chart](#)

ASGC STRUCTURAL CHART

The diagram below depicts the various ASGC structures and shows how they interrelate.



Principles of the ASGC

[Contents](#) >> [Introduction](#) >> [Principles of the ASGC](#)

PRINCIPLES OF THE ASGC

The ASGC is constructed on the principle that it must fulfil user needs for spatial statistics while also conforming to general classification principles.

Classification principles

The ASGC is constructed on the basic classification principles that members within one class are of the same type, classes are uniquely defined so as to be mutually exclusive and, in total, the members in each class cover the entire class.

As a result, the geographical units of each hierarchical level in each classification structure of the ASGC are:

- of the same type, delimited by well-defined criteria
- clearly demarcated by precise boundaries
- uniquely identified by codes and names
- mutually exclusive
- in aggregate cover the whole area to which that hierarchy applies.

User needs

The ASGC is designed to meet user needs for social, demographic and economic statistics. The smallest units of the ASGC i.e. CDs at census times and SLAs at intercensal times, have been designed such that they are:

- convenient and efficient for data collection
- useful and relevant for data dissemination
- flexible for aggregation to larger units
- useful building blocks for user-defined regions.

Thus, CDs are designed for efficient data collection at census times. Each CD covers an area which allows census data to be collected in an efficient and cost effective manner. SLAs are defined on the administrative areas of local governments. Local governments are both a useful source of data and a relevant dissemination unit for users.

CDs aggregate to SLAs which, in turn, aggregate to other larger areas of the ASGC. Each of these geographical areas serves a specific purpose and meets user needs. Many organisations employ the CDs and the SLAs as the building blocks to construct their own geography for statistical purposes.

Definition of Australia

[Contents](#) >> [Introduction](#) >> [Definition of Australia](#)

DEFINITION OF AUSTRALIA

For ASGC purposes, the ABS uses the definition of Australia as set out in section 17(a) of the **Acts Interpretation Act 1901** which currently defines Australia or the Commonwealth as meaning:

‘...the Commonwealth of Australia and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, but does not include any other external Territory.’

Following the incorporation of the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands into geographic Australia (by the **Territories Law Reform Act, No. 104, 1992**, which amended the **Acts Interpretation Act 1901**), these two territories were included in the ASGC from 1 July 1993. Other external territories (such as Norfolk Island) remain excluded. In addition, the treatment of Jervis Bay Territory in the ASGC changed from 1 July 1993.

Jervis Bay Territory was previously included with the Australian Capital Territory for statistical purposes because of its administrative association with the Australian Capital Territory and because its relatively small size prevented it from meeting confidentiality requirements for statistical output. Following the granting of self-government to the Australian Capital Territory in May 1989, the situation was reviewed and from the 1 July 1993 Edition of the ASGC, Jervis Bay Territory, along with the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, formed part of a new category, Other Territories, at the state/territory level. Although included as part of the ASGC, all three of these territories are currently regarded as out-of-scope for ABS censuses and surveys except for the Census of Population and Housing, population estimates, and Cause of Death.

There are a number of other definitions of Australia used for specific purposes by the ABS. For example the definition of Economic Australia, for international reporting purposes, is defined in the Standard Economic Sector Classification of Australia (cat. no. 1218.0) as the area under the effective control of the Australian government and includes Norfolk Island.

Main Structure

[Contents](#) >> [Main Structure](#)

MAIN STRUCTURE

Purpose
The Structure
The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose
The Structure
The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents >> Main Structure >> Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

The Main Structure of the ASGC is used to collect and disseminate a broad range of ABS social, demographic and economic statistics. Although the Main Structure is the most widely used and has broad application, the other structures are equally important to their own purposes. Maps depicting the Main Structure boundaries are provided in Chapter 16.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Structure

[Contents >> Main Structure >> The Structure](#)

THE STRUCTURE

The Main Structure has five hierarchical levels at Population Census times, comprising in ascending order: CDs-SLAs-SSDs-SDs-S/Ts. In non-census years, CDs are undefined and the Main Structure thus has only four levels of hierarchy.

In this structure, CDs aggregate to form SLAs, SLAs aggregate to form SSDs, and this aggregation principle continues up the remaining hierarchical levels. At each hierarchical level, the component spatial units (e.g. SLAs) collectively cover all of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

Tables

Detailed tables of the Main Structure are shown in Chapter 15 - The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Main Structure - Broad

(showing three hierarchical levels: S/T-SD-SSD)

S/T SD SSD			Name
4	05		SOUTH AUSTRALIA
			Adelaide
		05	Northern Adelaide
		10	Western Adelaide

- Main Structure - Detailed

(showing four hierarchical levels: S/T-SD-SSD-SLA)

S/T SD SSD SLA				Name
4	05	05		SOUTH AUSTRALIA
				Adelaide
				Northern Adelaide
			2030	Gawler (T)
			5681	Playford (C) - East Central
			10	Western Adelaide
			1061	Charles Sturt (C) - Coastal
			1064	Charles Sturt (C) - Inner East

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Spatial Units

[Contents >> Main Structure >> The Spatial Units](#)

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

CDs are designed for use in census years for the collection and dissemination of Population Census data. In non-census years, CDs are undefined. In aggregate, CDs cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

The CD is the smallest spatial unit in the ASGC. CDs aggregate to form the larger spatial units of SLAs in the Main, Statistical Region, Statistical District and LGA Structures, Sections of State in the SOS Structure, Urban Centres and Localities in the UC/L Structure and Remoteness Areas in the Remoteness Structure. Aggregation of SLAs in turn forms the remaining spatial units in the ASGC. Therefore, in census years, the CD is the common denominator which integrates all classification structures in the ASGC (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

The traditional concept of a CD is that it defines an area that one census collector can cover, delivering and collecting census forms, in about a ten-day period. However, in the interests of comparability between censuses, this criterion is no longer strictly observed. In the 2006 edition, many urban CDs were of a size such that census collectors may have been allocated more than one CD. In urban areas CDs average about 220 dwellings. In rural areas the number of dwellings per CD reduces as population densities decrease. By design, CD boundaries do not cross SLA (and thus LGA) boundaries. Therefore, an aggregation of CDs covers the administrative area of a local government.

For the 2006 Census, 38,704 CDs were defined throughout Australia.

Delimitation of CDs

For the 2006 Census the following standard CD design principles were used for delimiting CDs:

- 2001 Census CD boundaries should be retained wherever possible.
- CDs should be designed as the smallest spatial units of collection for the Population Census and be capable of aggregation to form larger spatial units.
- CD boundaries must conform with SLA boundaries, which in turn conform with LGA boundaries. Since all other boundaries for the census edition of the ASGC are created by aggregation of CDs, CDs automatically conform to these other ASGC boundaries.
- CD boundaries, wherever practical, should also conform to the following non-ABS boundaries - gazetted Suburb/Locality boundaries, Commonwealth Electoral Divisions (CED) and State Electoral Divisions (SED). In 2006, where new CDs are defined in growth areas, CD design should take into account these non-ABS boundaries. However, if no other changes are needed, boundaries should not be changed merely to improve their alignment to non-ABS boundaries.
- The area, population and dwellings delimited by a CD boundary must not be so great that one collector cannot deliver census forms within about ten days. In urban areas one or more CDs can be combined to create a single collector's workload (CLW).
- The chosen CD boundaries should, if possible, be readily identifiable on the ground. They should be defined in terms of permanent features and follow the centre of the road or river if these features are used. However, the use of major roads as CD boundaries in rural areas should be avoided where possible to minimise the splitting of identifiable rural localities. In addition, the chosen CD boundary should delimit CDs which conform to existing and proposed land uses (i.e. rural property boundaries and proposed suburban development).
- CDs should not be designed in such a way as to prevent publication of data for confidentiality reasons. Accordingly, a CD, which is not a deliberate Nil CD, should contain, where possible, at least 100 persons at the next census. For dissemination purposes, Indigenous Community CDs should contain at least 80 persons.

- CDs in aggregate must cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

CD codes

CDs are identified by unique six-digit codes within each S/T.

Example:

1160501 is CD 160501 of New South Wales
5051901 is CD 051901 of Western Australia

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

The SLA is a general purpose spatial unit. It is the base spatial unit used to collect and disseminate statistics other than those collected from the Population Censuses. In non-census years, the SLA is the smallest unit defined in the ASGC. In census years, an SLA consists of one or more whole CDs. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

SLAs aggregate directly to form the larger spatial units of SSDs in the Main Structure, SRSs in the SR Structure and LGAs in the LGA Structure (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). SSDs in turn aggregate to form the larger spatial units of S Dists in the S Dist. Structure. Therefore, the SLA is the common denominator which integrates the four classification structures in use in both census and non-census years.

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 1,389 SLAs in Australia including one SLA for each of the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

SLAs are listed in the table - Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic - in Chapter 15.

Delimitation of SLAs

SLAs are based on the boundaries of incorporated bodies of local government where these exist. These bodies are the Local Government Councils and the geographical areas which they administer are known as Local Government Areas (LGAs).

An LGA is an SLA if it fits entirely within an SSD and is broadly similar in size, economic significance and user needs for statistics to other LGAs in Australia.

For example, the SLA of Albury (C) corresponds to the whole LGA of the City of Albury in New South Wales. In this edition of the ASGC, 364 of the total 1,389 SLAs, approximately 26%, equate with a whole LGA. While approximately 65% of the 559 LGAs equate with one SLA.

An LGA will be composed of two or more SLAs when the above conditions are not met. This can occur if an LGA is divided by the boundary of one or more SSDs or where the LGA is substantially different in size, economic significance and user needs for statistics to other LGAs. The LGA is then split into two or more SLAs which generally correspond to one or

more suburbs (as occurs in the predominantly urban LGA of the City of Brisbane) or other areas of interest.

For example, the LGA of the Shire of Indigo in Victoria is split into two SLAs Indigo (S) - Pt A and Indigo (S) - Pt B because it is split by an SSD boundary, and, the LGA of the City of Brisbane is split into 158 SLAs generally based on suburbs.

There are large parts of Australia which are not administered by incorporated local government bodies. For those areas an SLA is an unincorporated area. Unincorporated SLAs are defined for unincorporated on-shore area(s) and/or off-shore island(s) in an SSD or are defined for that part of an unincorporated area which is considered of sufficient economic significance as to warrant the formation of a separate SLA.

For example, Unincorp. Pirie is an unincorporated SLA in the Pirie SSD in South Australia and Unincorp. Far West is an unincorporated SLA in Far West SSD in New South Wales. Similarly the SLAs of Alyangula and Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem SSD in the Northern Territory are unincorporated areas.

Other large parts of Australia which are unincorporated include the unincorporated part of South Australia. The Australian Capital Territory is entirely an unincorporated area where each SLA is either a suburb, a locality or the non-urban area of an SSD.

Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SLAs are not spatial units, and are formed for census purposes for all S/Ts, except the Australian Capital Territory to encompass off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs.

SLA name

The naming conventions for SLAs are as follows:

- An SLA which is a whole LGA adopts the name of the LGA including its LGA status as a suffix. Thus, Narrogin (S) and Narrogin (T) in Western Australia are separate SLAs. The various LGA types currently in use by states and the Northern Territory are specified in Chapter 3.
- An SLA which is part of an LGA may adopt a hyphenated name the first part of which is the name of the LGA.

For example, the LGA of Stirling (C) in Western Australia is split into three SLAs:

Stirling (C) - Central
Stirling (C) - Coastal
Stirling (C) - South-Eastern

- If the name includes - Pt A, - Pt B, or - Pt C, this indicates the SLAs were formed by splitting an LGA between two or more SSDs and - Pt A usually denotes the more urban part of the split LGA.

For example, the LGA of the Municipality of Latrobe in Tasmania is split into two SLAs:

Latrobe (M) - Pt A
Latrobe (M) - Pt B

- An SLA which is part of an LGA may adopt a locality or suburb name.

For example, the LGA of the City of Brisbane in Queensland is split into 158 SLAs, including:

Acacia Ridge
Albion
Yeronga
Zillmere

- The name of an SLA which covers an unincorporated area does not contain LGA type. In New South Wales and South Australia the SLA name may include Unincorp.

For example, the SLAs Yulara (in Northern Territory), Bruce (in Australian Capital Territory) and Unincorp. Far West (in New South Wales).

- A small number of SLA names are duplicated across S/Ts and one SLA name is duplicated within an S/T. These names become unique when used in conjunction with SLA codes.

Example:

City (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
City - Inner (Queensland and Northern Territory)
City - Remainder (Queensland and Northern Territory)
Durack (Queensland and Northern Territory)
Kingston (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
Oxley (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
Red Hill (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
West End (Townsville (C) and Brisbane (C))

SLA code

The coding conventions for SLAs are as follows:

- SLAs are identified by four-digit codes. These codes are unique only within an S/T. For unique Australia-wide identification the four-digit SLA code must be preceded by the unique one-digit S/T code.

Example:

Burwood (A) 1300 (in New South Wales) (S/T code 1)
East Arnhem (S) 1300 (in Northern Territory) (S/T code 7)

- The fourth (last) digit of the SLA code indicates the following:
 - 0 means the SLA is a whole LGA.

Example:

Ashburton (S) 0250 (in Western Australia)

- 1-8 means the SLA is part of an LGA.

Example:

Sorell (M) - Pt A 4811 (in Tasmania)

Sorell (M) - Pt B 4812 (in Tasmania)

- 9 means the SLA is either an unincorporated area, an Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SLA or an undefined category (see Chapter 3, Chapter 2 or Chapter 10 respectively).

Example:

Bruce 0729 (in Australian Capital Territory)

Off-Shore Areas & Migratory 9779

- Within each S/T, SLA codes are in the range of 0001-9990; codes ending with 99 and those within the range of 9991-9999 have been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).
- In the Main Structure, SLA codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an SSD. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

The SSD is a general purpose spatial unit of intermediate size between the SLA (smaller) and the SD (larger) in the Main Structure.

- SSDs consist of one or more SLAs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps. The larger spatial units of SDs and S Dists can be formed by aggregation of SSDs (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). SSDs do not cross S/T boundaries except in the case of the Other Territories SSD, which comprises the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 206 SSDs in Australia.

Delimitation of SSDs

The delimitation criteria for SSDs are as follows:

- SSDs are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. Moreover, in the non-urban areas (i.e. outside the capital cities or areas with population clusters of 25,000 or more people), an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.
- Where possible, SSD boundaries embrace contiguous whole LGAs. However, in some cases e.g. where S Dists or capital city SDs have been defined, an SSD boundary may split the LGA into parts with each part of the LGA forming part of the relevant SSD.

For example, the SSDs of Richmond-Tweed SD Bal and Tweed Heads & Tweed Coast dissect the LGA of the Area of Tweed in New South Wales.

- One or more SSDs must be defined for an S Dist. that falls within an S/T.

For example, the Ballarat City SSD in Victoria covers the same area as the Ballarat S Dist.

- One or more SSDs must be defined for each part of an S Dist. which straddles an S/T boundary.

For example, the Albury SSD in New South Wales plus the Wodonga SSD in Victoria together cover the same area as the Albury-Wodonga S Dist. which lies partly in New South Wales and partly in Victoria.

- Where an SD contains an S Dist. (or part of an S Dist.), one or more SSDs must be defined for the S Dist. and at least one SSD for the remainder of the SD which falls outside the S Dist. Even though the SSD(s) so defined may not have a predominant town or cluster of towns with a unifying socioeconomic influence over the region.

For example, in New South Wales, the SSD of Hunter SD Bal is defined as the part of the Hunter SD which is outside the Newcastle (NSW) S Dist. (and Newcastle SSD).

- One Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SSD is defined for each S/T except the Australian Capital Territory.

SSD code

The coding conventions for SSDs are as follows:

- SSDs are identified by unique two-digit codes within SDs. Unique Australia-wide identification of SSDs is obtained by use of a five-digit code comprising S/T code (digit 1), SD code (digits 2-3) and SSD code (digits 4-5).

For example, Albury 15505 (in New South Wales) and Wodonga 24505 (in Victoria).

- SSD code 88 has been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).
- In the Main Structure, SSD codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an SD. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Division (SD)

The SD is a general purpose spatial unit and is the largest and most stable spatial unit within each S/T in the Main Structure.

SDs consist of one or more SSDs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps. SDs aggregate to form S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 61 SDs in Australia including one SD for the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Delimitation of SDs

The current basis for delimiting SDs was determined by the 31st and 33rd Conferences of Statisticians of Australia in 1969 and 1973. The delimitation criteria are as follows:

- SDs should ideally be delimited on the basis of socioeconomic criteria and should, where possible, embrace contiguous whole local government areas.
- SD boundaries so delimited should be changed only at infrequent intervals, for example, at periods of 15-20 years.
- SD boundaries should be determined in time for use in the next Population Census if practicable.
- A Capital City SD (currently one in each capital city) should be defined, after consultation with planners, to contain the anticipated development of the city for a period of at least 20 years. This fixed SD boundary - as distinct from the moving urban centre boundary - delimits an area which is stable for general statistical purposes. It represents the city in a wider sense. This delimitation procedure cannot be applied to the separate urban centres within a Capital City SD.
- SDs outside a capital city should be defined as a relatively homogeneous region characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

More specifically, the SDs within the individual S/T have been delimited as follows:

- In New South Wales, SDs correspond to proclaimed Government Regions with the exception that North Coast Region consists of the SDs of Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast. These Regions were delimited to maximize the degree of socioeconomic interactions within each Region. Information on transport patterns, telephone traffic between major cities and towns, retail shopping, fresh goods marketing, provincial newspaper circulation areas and coverage of principal radio stations were all used in delimiting these boundaries.
- In Victoria, the SDs prior to 1995 generally corresponded to State Planning Regions adopted by the Victorian Government in October 1981. However, following the restructuring of local government in that State during 1994 and 1995, the SDs were redefined to accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In Queensland, formal State Planning Regions have been abolished. SDs are used on an informal basis for State Government planning purposes where relevant. SD delimitation follows the general criteria outlined above.
- In South Australia, State Planning Regions, as proposed by the Committee on Uniform Regional Boundaries for Government Departments (CURB), were adopted by the South Australia Government in 1976. CURB Regions were based on such factors as: population density and distribution, socioeconomic characteristics, political boundaries, government service areas, newspaper circulation, retail trading patterns, etc. Prior to 1998, South Australian SDs did not always correspond to CURB Regions but they always aggregated to these Regions. However, following the restructuring of local government in South Australia in 1996 and 1997, the SDs were redefined to accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In Western Australia, State Planning Regions, as proposed by the State Statistical Coordination Committee, were adopted by the Western Australia Government in January 1976. SDs in Western Australia correspond to these Regions. The Perth Metropolitan Region is delimited to be consistent with the overall concepts and planning of Perth and to take into account LGA and CD boundaries. Rural Regions on the other hand are delimited based on the socioeconomic interest of the community; the character of natural resource; the distribution of population and industries; town

size; road and railway systems; and production and marketing practices.

- In Tasmania, SD delimitation follows the general considerations and criteria outlined above. They are considered satisfactory for the purpose of State Government planning.
- In the Northern Territory, SDs are based on Territory Government Administrative Regions, and are consistent with the general considerations and criteria for their delimitation described above.
- In the Australian Capital Territory, SD delimitation follows the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In the Other Territories, the SD has been delimited to represent the aggregated area of the Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

SD name

SD names tend to indicate their generalised region (e.g. Far North in Queensland). SD names are unique only within an S/T as a small number of SD names are replicated between the states (see example below). SD names become unique when used in conjunction with their SD codes or referenced to their respective state code. One Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SD is defined for each S/T except the Australian Capital Territory.

Example:

Central West (in New South Wales and Queensland)
Northern (in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania)
South West (in Queensland and Western Australia)
South Eastern (in New South Wales and Western Australia)

SD code

The coding conventions for SDs are as follows:

- SDs are identified by unique two-digit codes within an S/T. Unique Australia-wide identification of SDs requires a three-digit code comprising S/T code (digit 1) and SD code (digits 2-3).

Example:

Adelaide 405
Kimberley 545

- The SD code 85 is reserved for Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SDs and the SD code 88 has been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).
- In the Main Structure, SD codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an S/T. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

State and Territory (S/T)

The S/T is the largest spatial unit in the Main Structure and in the ASGC.

Six states and five territories are recognised in the ASGC: New South Wales, Victoria,

Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory and the external Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

These spatial units are political entities with fixed boundaries. Except for the last three mentioned territories, the total area of each S/T, including their off-shore islands, is used for statistical purposes as a separate spatial unit in the ASGC. Jervis Bay Territory, and the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are included as one spatial unit at the S/T level under the category of Other Territories.

S/Ts consist of one or more SDs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

S/Ts are identified by unique one-digit codes within Australia as follows:

Code	S/T
1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other Territories

This coding order has been widely used in the ABS and other organizations as a standard for many years. The order was reviewed when Western Australia displaced South Australia as the fourth most populous state. Citing the Commonwealth Table of Precedence, which adopted a revised listing such that any textual material having protocol significance should list Western Australia before South Australia, some users requested the code for Western Australia be changed to four and South Australia to five. For the ASGC however, the above order was maintained to ensure historical continuity, to reduce potential errors in data handling and interpreting, and to avoid costs associated with changing existing systems.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Local Government Area Structure

[Contents >> Local Government Area Structure](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA STRUCTURE

- Purpose
- The Structure
- The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose
The Structure
The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents >> Local Government Area Structure >> Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

The LGA Structure shows the relationship between LGAs and SLAs. This relationship can be one LGA to one SLA or one LGA to many SLAs.

The LGA Structure is separate from the Main Structure because:

- Unlike spatial units in the Main Structure, LGAs do not cover the whole of Australia
- Unlike SLAs which aggregate to form SSDs and SDs, some LGAs do not wholly fit within an SSD and an SD (e.g. Mid-Western Regional Area in New South Wales).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Structure

[Contents >> Local Government Area Structure >> The Structure](#)

THE STRUCTURE

Incorporated areas only

The LGA Structure covers only incorporated areas of Australia. Incorporated areas are legally designated parts of states and territories over which incorporated local governing bodies have responsibility. The major areas of Australia not administered by incorporated bodies are the northern parts of South Australia and all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories.

In Population Census years the LGA Structure has four levels of hierarchy, in ascending order these are: CDs-SLAs-LGAs-S/Ts (Incorporated Areas). In non-census years CDs are

not defined and consequently the LGA Structure has only three levels: SLAs-LGAs-S/Ts (Incorporated Areas). The spatial units in each level relate to each other in a straightforward manner: LGAs comprise one or more whole SLAs and SLAs comprise one or more whole CDs.

Processing LGAs for the ASGC

LGAs are proclaimed by state and territory government authorities and changes are gazetted throughout the year. The ABS has broadened the categories of legislation used to define local government areas for statistical purposes to include the Indigenous Council areas in the States.

LGAs are used as the base on which SLAs are defined. Because this definition process takes time, LGAs gazetted during the year leading up to an ASGC edition cannot always be included in that edition. For instance, complex LGA changes which result in complicated redesign of SLAs, or changes gazetted too close to the effective date of 1 July of an ASGC edition, may have to be included in a later edition.

Table

The current LGA Structure, down to SLA level, is shown in Chapter 15, The Classification Structures.

For example:

Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic

S/T	LGA Name	LGA	SLA Name	SD	SSD	SLA
1	Albury (C)	10050	Albury (C)	155	15505	155050050
1	Armidale Dumaresq (A)	10110				
1			Armidale Dumaresq (A) - City	130	13015	130150111
1			Armidale Dumaresq (A) Bal	130	13015	130150112

Note that there is no SD or SSD code for the LGA because LGAs are not part of the Main Structure. This table also shows SLAs which cover unincorporated areas and are therefore not part of the LGA Structure.

For example:

S/T	LGA Name	LGA	SLA Name	SD	SSD	SLA
1	Unincorporated NSW	19399				
1			Unincorp. Far West	160	16010	160108809
1			Lord Howe Island	125	12510	125108859

The Spatial Units

[Contents >> Local Government Area Structure >> The Spatial Units](#)

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Chapter 2.

Local Government Area (LGA)

An LGA included in the ASGC LGA Structure is a spatial unit which represents the whole geographical area of responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council or an Aboriginal Council in Queensland.

An LGA consists of one or more SLAs. LGAs aggregate directly to form the incorporated areas of S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). In this edition of the ASGC, there are 559 LGAs defined.

Delimitation of LGAs

The creation and delimitation of LGAs is the responsibility of the State and Territory Governments. The number of LGAs, their names and their boundaries vary over time.

Local government bodies perform a wide range of functions in the areas they administer. These functions are defined in legislation such as:

- The Local Government Acts in each state and the Northern Territory
- Specific Acts and regulations establishing Local Government Areas in Queensland, **City of Brisbane Act 1924**, and the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement (Weipa Town Area) Regulation 1994.

LGA status

In all states and the Northern Territory each incorporated area has an official status. In this ASGC edition, the various LGA status types currently in use are:

- New South Wales: Cities (C) and Areas (A)
- Victoria: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Boroughs (B) and Shires (S)

- Queensland: Cities (C), Shires (S), Towns (T) and Regional Councils (R)
- South Australia: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Municipalities/Municipal Councils (M), District Councils (DC), Regional Councils (RegC) and Aboriginal Councils (AC)
- Western Australia: Cities (C), Towns (T) and Shires (S)
- Tasmania: Cities (C) and Municipalities (M)
- Northern Territory: Cities (C), Towns (T), Municipalities (M) and Shires (S).

LGA name

In the LGA Structure LGA names are contracted. A suffix also indicates the LGA status.

Example:

City of Albury Albury (C)
District Council of Copper Coast Copper Coast (DC)

LGA names are not unique across states and territories (e.g. Campbelltown (C) is duplicated between New South Wales and South Australia). An LGA name will become unique when used in conjunction with a state code, or its LGA code.

LGA code

LGAs are identified by four-digit codes as follows:

- Codes are unique only within an S/T. For unique Australia-wide LGA code identification, the four-digit code must be preceded by the S/T code. All LGA codes end with the digit 0.
- Where an LGA corresponds to an SLA, the LGA code and the SLA code are identical.
- Where an LGA consists of more than one SLA, generally the first three digits of the LGA code and the SLA code are identical.

The exceptions to this rule are explained in special case LGA codes below.

Special case LGA codes

When an LGA consists of many component SLAs, it becomes impossible to maintain a three-digit link between the LGA code and the SLA codes. This occurs for the LGAs of: Queensland - Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Logan (C), Moreton Bay (R), Redland (S), Sunshine Coast (R), Toowoomba (R), Ipswich (C), Cairns (R), Torres Strait Island (R) and Townsville (C); and for the Northern Territory - Darwin (C) and Palmerston (C).

For example, the LGA of Brisbane (C) in Queensland is split into 158 SLAs, including:

Acacia Ridge 1001
Yeronga 1648
Zillmere 1653

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Statistical District Structure

[Contents >> Statistical District Structure](#)

STATISTICAL DISTRICT STRUCTURE

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents >> Statistical District Structure >> Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

The S Dist. Structure maintains a list of selected, significant, predominantly urban areas in Australia which are not located within a Capital City SD (see Chapter 2). S Dists enable comparable statistics to be produced about these selected urban areas. In the main, the structure is used to report intercensal population estimates.

S Dists are maintained as a separate structure from the Main Structure because:

- the total area of S Dists does not cover the whole of Australia
- some S Dists straddle S/T boundaries (e.g. the Gold Coast-Tweed S Dist. lies partly in Queensland and partly in New South Wales).

The Structure

[Contents >> Statistical District Structure >> The Structure](#)

THE STRUCTURE

The S Dist. Structure has four levels of hierarchy in census years, comprising in ascending order: CDs-SLAs-SSDs-S Dists. In non-census years, with CDs undefined, it has only three levels of hierarchy (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

In this structure, CDs, SLAs and SSDs are confined to those which fall within S Dists. The spatial units relate to each other through aggregation or disaggregation. For example, CDs aggregate to SLAs while SLAs are disaggregates of SSDs. The spatial units within each level of the S Dist. Structure do not collectively cover the whole of Australia.

Table

The current S Dist. Structure, down to SLA level, is shown in Chapter 15 - The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Statistical District Structure

(showing three hierarchical levels: S Dist.-SSD-SLA)

SDIST SSD SLA		Name
1003		NEWCASTLE (NSW)
	11005	Newcastle
	1720	Cessnock (C)
	4651	Lake Macquarie (C) - East
	4653	Lake Macquarie (C) - North
	4655	Lake Macquarie (C) - West
	5050	Maitland (C)
	5903	Newcastle (C) - Inner City
	5904	Newcastle (C) - Outer West
	5905	Newcastle (C) - Throsby
	6400	Port Stephens (A)

The Spatial Units

Contents >> Statistical District Structure >> The Spatial Units

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical District (S Dist.)

S Dists are predominantly urban areas, the boundaries of which are designed to contain the anticipated urban spread of the area for at least 20 years. They are generally defined as containing an urban centre population of 25,000 or more.

S Dists consist of one or more SSDs. S Dists do not aggregate to any higher level spatial units (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

There are 36 S Dists in this edition of the ASGC. Three of these straddle two states: Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales/Victoria), Gold Coast-Tweed (Queensland/New South Wales) and Canberra-Queanbeyan (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales).

Delimitation of S Dists

The criteria for delimiting S Dists are as follows:

- S Dists consist of one or more urban centres (outside Capital City SDs) in close proximity with a population of 25,000 or more
- S Dist. boundaries are defined in anticipation of urban development of at least 20 years
- S Dists consist of one or more SSDs
- S Dists may cut across LGA boundaries
- S Dists may cut across S/T boundaries
- an S Dist. may be delimited for an urban centre with less than 25,000 population, where the ABS can determine a demand for intercensal population estimates for the area and the existing LGA/SLA boundaries are inadequate for this purpose.

S Dist. name

S Dist. names include a suffix which identifies the state(s)/territory in which the S Dist. is located.

Example:

Newcastle (NSW)
Albury-Wodonga (NSW/VIC)

S Dist. code

S Dists are identified by four-digit codes which are unique within Australia. The first two digits indicate the S/T(s) in which the S Dist. is located. For the three S Dists which cover two states, the first digit is the code of the predominant state and the second digit is the code of the other state. For the other S Dists which fall entirely within one S/T, the first digit is the S/T code and the second digit is 0. The last two digits are allocated in ascending numerical order. Gaps are left between codes for future expansion.

Example:

Newcastle (New South Wales) 1003
Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales/Victoria) 1218
Gold Coast-Tweed (Queensland/New South Wales) 3139
Canberra-Queanbeyan (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales) 8196

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Statistical Region Structure

[Contents >> Statistical Region Structure](#)

STATISTICAL REGION STRUCTURE

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose

The Structure

Purpose

[Contents](#) >> [Statistical Region Structure](#) >> [Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

The SR Structure has been in use since 1986 for the production of standard statistical outputs from Population Censuses and labour force surveys. Labour Force Surveys use dissemination regions for the publication of labour force data.

SRs are maintained as a separate structure from the Main Structure because of the complex manner in which they relate to SSDs and SDs. For example, SRs can be whole SSDs, aggregates of SSDs, or part of an SSD. Similarly they can be whole SDs, aggregates of SDs or part of an SD. SRs can also be as large as a state or territory. SRs are aggregates of SLAs.

The Structure

[Contents](#) >> [Statistical Region Structure](#) >> [The Structure](#)

THE STRUCTURE

The SR Structure has six levels of hierarchy in census years, comprising in ascending hierarchical order: CDs-SLAs-SRSs-SRs-MSRs-S/Ts. In non-census years, with CDs undefined, it has only five levels of hierarchy (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

The spatial units in adjoining levels relate to each other by aggregation and disaggregation. For example, SRSs aggregate to SRs while SRs are disaggregates of MSRs. The spatial units within each level of the SR Structure cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

Table

Detailed tables of the SR Structure are shown in Chapter 15 - The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Statistical Region Structure - Broad

(showing three hierarchical levels: S/T-MSR-SR)

S/T	MSR	SR	Name
1			NEW SOUTH WALES
	1		Sydney
		04	Inner Sydney
		08	Eastern Suburbs
		12	St George-Sutherland
		16	Canterbury-Bankstown

For example:

- Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

(showing five hierarchical levels: S/T-MSR-SR-SRS-SLA)

S/T	MSR	SR	SRS	SLA	Name
1					NEW SOUTH WALES
	1				Sydney
		04			Inner Sydney
			1		Inner Sydney
				1100	Botany Bay (C)
				4800	Leichhardt (A)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Spatial Units

[Contents >> Statistical Region Structure >> The Spatial Units](#)

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Region Sector (SRS)

SRSs consist of one or more adjoining SLAs and in all but one case equate to one or more adjoining SSDs.

Example:

SRS SSD	SLA
Mornington Peninsula Frankston City	Frankston (C) - East Frankston (C) - West
Mornington Peninsula Shire	Mornington P'sula (S) - East Mornington P'sula (S) - South Mornington P'sula (S) - West

The exception is:

- eight of the 15 SRSs in the Brisbane MSR are smaller than an SSD

Although SRSs are subdivisions of SRs, most SRSs equate with SRs. Exceptions to this generalised rule include the SRSs in the Hunter, Illawarra, Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West, Northern-North West, Darling Downs-South West, Tasmania and Northern Territory SRs and the SRSs in the Brisbane MSR. SRSs are used primarily for disseminating selected labour force statistics.

There are 86 SRSs in this edition of the ASGC.

SRS code

SRSs are identified by five-digit codes. Each code consists of S/T code (digit 1), MSR code (digit 2), SR code (digits 3-4) and SRS code (digit 5).

Example:

Mornington Peninsula (21281)

Only digits 1, 3-4 and 5 are required for unique identification within Australia.

Statistical Region (SR)

SRs consist of one or more SSDs.

In the capital cities of the five larger states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, SRs are smaller than SDs and aggregate to form the respective capital city SDs. Outside of the capital cities in these S/Ts, SRs consist of one or more adjoining SDs.

In Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories, SRs are

the entire S/Ts.

There are 66 SRs in this edition of the ASGC.

SR code

SRs are identified by four-digit codes as follows:

- Each code consists of S/T code (digit 1), MSR code (digit 2) and SR code (digits 3-4).

Example:

West Moreton 3969

Central Coast 1156

- The SR code 98 has been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).

Major Statistical Region (MSR)

Each of the five larger states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia consists of two MSRs. One MSR equates with the capital city SD and the other with the balance of the state. The other S/Ts have one MSR each with each MSR covering the entire area of the S/T.

There are 14 MSRs in this edition of the ASGC.

MSR code

MSRs are identified by two-digit codes for unique identification within Australia. Each code consists of an S/T code (digit 1) and an MSR code (digit 2). MSR code 1 represents the capital city MSR in the larger states while code 9 denotes the Balance of State MSR.

Example:

MSR

Sydney 11

Balance of New South Wales 19

Delimitation of MSR, SR, SRS

One of the main uses of these spatial units is to report statistics from the Labour Force Surveys. These units were established following analyses of data from Censuses of Population and Housing, consultation with users of labour force data, consideration of minimum regional population levels required to yield reliable estimates, and the need for consistency with other statistical collections.

Population considerations dictate that Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories cannot be dissected into two MSRs (as in the other states) as their populations are too small.

The minimum population size of a region for which labour force statistics are published depends on a number of factors. The prime determinant is the reliability of data based on the population size of the region and the sampling fraction of the S/T. Unlike state and MSR level data, estimates at lower geographic levels are not constrained to conform to independently estimated population totals. Estimates for regions are also based on considerably smaller samples. For these reasons, regional estimates may be subject to high relative standard errors. Other factors that may be considered are how well the region fits with the classification structure of the S/T, how homogenous the labour force is in the region, and the uses to which the data may be put.

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Urban Centre — Locality Structure

[Contents >> Urban Centre — Locality Structure](#)

URBAN CENTRE — LOCALITY STRUCTURE

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents >> Urban Centre — Locality Structure >> Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

The UC/L Structure groups CDs together to form defined areas according to population size

criteria. The resulting areas are known as Urban Centres or Localities. Population counts (place of enumeration) from the latest Census of Population and Housing are used to define the UC/L Structure which means this classification structure is only current at the time of the Census. Both the Urban Centre and the Locality spatial units are made up of one or more contiguous CDs. As the UC/L Structure relates to CDs within defined areas only, the structure, in aggregate, does not cover all of Australia.

The UC/L Structure is separate from the Main Structure because:

- the boundaries do not generally coincide with SLAs and the higher level spatial units in the Main Structure
- its total area covers only part of Australia.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Structure

[Contents >> Urban Centre — Locality Structure >> The Structure](#)

THE STRUCTURE

The UC/L Structure is defined at Population Census times only. It comprises in ascending hierarchical order: CDs-Urban Centres/Localities.

CDs within this structure are confined to those within defined Urban Centre and Locality boundaries. As a consequence, Urban Centres and Localities aggregate to cover only part of a state or territory and thus the structure covers part of Australia only.

Urban Centres may be bisected by an S/T boundary. Where this occurs each portion of the urban centre is separately identified and is included in the Urban Centre/Locality Structure for the relevant S/T. For example, the urban centre of Albury-Wodonga is partly in New South Wales and partly in Victoria. One part is shown under New South Wales and the other under Victoria.

Table

Urban Centres and Localities are delimited by the use of actual population counts after each Census is conducted. The Urban Centres and Localities determined following the 2006 Census are listed in the publication **Statistical Geography: Volume 3 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Urban Centres/Localities, 2006** (cat. no. 2909.0).

Example:

S/T UC/L	Name
1	NEW SOUTH WALES

In this table, Urban Centre and Locality names are listed alphabetically and UC/L codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within each S/T. The suffix (L) is shown after Locality names to distinguish Localities from Urban Centres.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Spatial Units

[Contents](#) >> [Urban Centre — Locality Structure](#) >> [The Spatial Units](#)

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Urban Centre/Locality (UC/L)

In broad terms, an Urban Centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people while a Locality is a population cluster of between 200 and 999 people. For statistical purposes, people living in Urban Centres are classified as urban while those in Localities are classified as rural.

Each Urban Centre/Locality has a clearly defined boundary and comprises one or more whole CDs. Urban Centres/Localities are redefined at each Population Census.

Delimitation of Urban Centres and Localities

The delimitation criteria for UC/Ls are based on those developed in 1965 by Dr GJR Linge from the Australian National University. The criteria that are currently in force have been adopted and subsequently amended by the Conferences of Statisticians of Australia in 1965 and 1969 and the Review of ABS Statistical Geography in 1988.

Delimitation of Urban Centres with 20,000 or more people

The criteria are as follows:

- Each Urban Centre with a population of 20,000 or more is to consist of a cluster of contiguous urban CDs and other urban areas. CDs classified as urban include the following:

- All contiguous CDs which have a population density of 200 or more persons per square kilometre shall be classified as urban. Consequently State, SD, LGA and other administrative boundaries shall be disregarded in determining whether a CD should be included within the Urban Centre.
- A CD consisting mainly of land used for factories, airports, small sports areas, cemeteries, hostels, institutions, prisons, military camps or certain research stations shall be classified as urban if contiguous with CDs which are themselves urban.
- A CD consisting mainly of land used for large sporting areas, large parks, explosives handling and munitions areas, or holding yards associated with meatworks and abattoirs shall be classified as urban only if it is bordered on three sides by CDs which are themselves classified as urban.
- Any area which is completely surrounded by CDs which are urban must itself be classified as urban.
- Where an Urban Centre of 20,000 or more population is separated from another urban area by a gap in urban development of less than three kilometres (by the shortest railway or road distance), the gap shall be bridged by classifying a connecting CD as urban, and therefore treating the urban areas as one. If the gap is three or more kilometres (and whether or not it is comprised mainly of reserved land or a natural barrier) the urban areas shall remain separate.
- Any area included in an Urban Centre in 1971 or thereafter under the provisions of these criteria shall continue to be so included, unless the population of the Urban Centre falls below 20,000, in which case these criteria will cease to apply.
- If a CD was incorrectly included (for whatever reason) in a Linge area at a previous census, then it should be excluded at the next census unless it now meets the criteria.
- Large peripheral CDs in growth areas may be fragmented; and insofar as the availability of visible boundary features allows, the fragments so created shall be as near square-shaped as possible, contain at least 100 persons at the next census and be of such a size that they will contain a collector's workload when fully developed. For the purpose of delimiting Urban Centres such fragments shall be regarded as CDs.

Delimitation of Urban Centres with 1,000 to 19,999 people

Each Urban Centre with a population between 1,000 and 19,999 is to be delimited as follows:

- The Urban Centre shall be delimited subjectively by the inspection of aerial photographs, by field inspection and/or by consideration of any other information that is available.
- All contiguous urban growth is to be included (even if this would not necessarily occur if the density criterion were applied), together with any close but non-contiguous development which could be clearly regarded as part of the Urban Centre. However, for Urban Centres which contain a population approaching 20,000 the objective criteria applied for Urban Centres with 20,000 people should also be considered.

Delimitation of Localities

Localities are to be delimited as follows:

- All population clusters of less than 1,000 population and whose population is expected to reach 200 by the next census are to be examined for boundary delineation.
- The following criteria must be satisfied before a boundary is drawn around a Locality. It must:
 - contain a non-farm population of at least 200 people but not more than 999 by the next census
 - have a minimum of 40 occupied non-farm dwellings with a discernible urban street pattern
 - have a discernible nucleus of population.
- If there is some doubt that a Locality will reach the minimum population of 200 people then a boundary should still be drawn around the Locality.
- Where, in the case of defence camps, construction camps, etc. it is anticipated that the cluster will not exist at two consecutive censuses, these camps should not be bounded.
- The Localities shall be delimited subjectively, by the use of the latest available aerial photographs, by field inspection and/or by consideration of any other information that is available.

Subjective guidelines

Guidelines for the drawing of subjectively determined UC/L boundaries are as follows:

- Wide rather than narrow boundaries are to be used to ensure inclusion of all urban or built-up areas. Some rural area can be included in an Urban Centre, if necessary, to ensure that the boundary encompasses all the urban area. However, this guideline should be interpreted in the light of the ones that follow.
- Continuity of urban development is a major consideration. Boundaries are not to be thrown very wide just to include some small non-contiguous area of urban development. (The Linge criterion of three kilometres may be of assistance in this respect in larger Urban Centres of say greater than 10,000-15,000 population).
- Where the subjective boundaries decided upon are contained within a municipal boundary and the remaining area or population is small, the municipal boundary is to be used.
- For previously bounded cities, towns or localities the boundaries are not to be changed lightly. Comparability is to be maintained with the past unless there are significant exclusions (either due to faulty boundaries at the previous census or subsequent development).
- When considering urban land usage, recognition should be given to approved plans.
- Topographic boundaries must be used wherever possible when they are consistent with the above guidelines.

UC/L name and code

When Urban Centres cross S/T boundaries, the separate portions of the Urban Centre are uniquely identified and reported in their relevant S/T.

UC/Ls are identified by a five-digit code which is only unique within each State/Territory. Use of UC/L codes in conjunction with S/T codes is necessary before these codes become unique across Australia.

Example:

S/T UC/L		Name
1	00800	NEW SOUTH WALES Albury-Wodonga (Albury Part)
2	00400	VICTORIA Albury-Wodonga (Wodonga Part)

The codes 00000 and 99999 are reserved as Rural Balance and Off-Shore and Migratory codes, respectively, for the S/Ts NSW, Vic., Qld, SA, WA, Tas. and NT.

The code 99999 is not applicable for the ACT as off-shore, shipping & migratory CDs are not defined for that Territory. See Chapter 2.

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Section of State Structure

[Contents >> Section of State Structure](#)

SECTION OF STATE STRUCTURE

- Purpose
- The Structure
- The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

- Purpose
- The Structure
- The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

PURPOSE

The SOS Structure uses population counts from the latest Census of Population and Housing to class CDs as urban or rural. Unlike the UC/L Structure (Chapter 6), the SOS Structure includes all CDs and therefore, in aggregate, the SOS Structure covers all of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1). For the 2006 edition, three of the five different SOS were divided into sub categories based on population size.

The SOS Structure is maintained as a separate structure in the ASGC because SOS spatial units do not align with spatial units from any of the other structures.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Structure

THE STRUCTURE

The SOS Structure is defined only in census years. It contains three hierarchical levels, comprising in ascending order: CDs-SOS-S/Ts.

In this structure, CDs aggregate to SOS and SOS aggregate to S/Ts without gaps or overlaps. Consequently, the structure covers all of Australia.

Table

The Sections of State Structure determined following the 2006 Census are listed in this publication (Chapter 14) **Statistical Geography: Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2006** (cat. no. 1216.0). This list provides:

- Section of State Structure: States/Territories, Sections of State (showing only the top two levels of the hierarchy: S/T-SOS)

Example:

S/T SOS		Name
1		NEW SOUTH WALES
	0	Major Urban
	1	Other Urban
	2	Bounded Locality
	3	Rural Balance
	4	Migratory

The Spatial Units

[Contents](#) >> [Section of State Structure](#) >> [The Spatial Units](#)

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Sections of State (SOS) and Sections of State Range (SOSR)

Within a state or territory, each SOS represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas of a particular urban/rural type. SOS are further broken down into different categories called SOSR. The SOS and SOSR categories are:

- Major Urban: this SOS category provides for a further three SOSR categories of urban areas (Urban Centres from the UC/L Structure) based upon population ranges of 1 million or more, 250,000 to 999,999, and 100,000 to 249,999
- Other Urban: this SOS category provides for a further five SOSR categories of urban areas (Urban Centres from the UC/L Structure) based upon population ranges of 50,000 to 99,999, 20,000 to 49,999, 10,000 to 19,999, 5,000 to 9,999, and 1,000 to 4,999
- Bounded Locality: this SOS category provides for a further two SOSR categories of rural areas (Localities from the UC/L Structure) with a population of 500 to 999 and 200 to 499
- Rural Balance: this SOS category is equivalent to the SOSR of the remainder of the State/Territory
- Migratory: this SOS category is equivalent to the SOSR of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs (see Chapter 2).

SOSR code

SOSR are identified by unique two-digit codes within each S/T. For unique Australia-wide identification, each two-digit SOSR code has to be used in conjunction with the S/T code.

SOS code

SOS are identified by unique one-digit codes within each S/T. For unique Australia-wide identification, each one-digit SOS code has to be used in conjunction with the S/T code.

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Remoteness Structure

[Contents >> Remoteness Structure](#)

REMOTENESS STRUCTURE

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose

The Structure

The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents >> Remoteness Structure >> Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

The final structure listed in the ASGC is the Remoteness Structure (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). The first edition of the ASGC to include a structure describing Australia in terms of a measurement of Remoteness was ASGC Edition 2001. The Remoteness Structure includes all CDs and therefore, in aggregate, it covers the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1). The purpose of the structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs).

There are six RAs in this structure.

The Remoteness Structure is used for the production of standard ABS statistical outputs

from Population Censuses and some ABS surveys.

The Remoteness Structure is maintained as a separate structure in the ASGC because the spatial units (RAs) do not align with those from any of the other structures.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Structure

[Contents](#) >> [Remoteness Structure](#) >> [The Structure](#)

THE STRUCTURE

The Remoteness Structure is defined only in census years, commencing with the census year 2001 and then further in census year 2006. It contains three hierarchical levels, comprising in ascending order: CDs-RAs-S/Ts.

In this structure, CDs aggregate to RAs and RAs aggregate to S/Ts without gaps or overlaps. Consequently the structure covers all of Australia.

Table

The Remoteness Structure determined for the 2006 Census is listed in the publication **Statistical Geography: Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2006** (cat. no. 1216.0). The listing provides:

- Remoteness Structure: States/Territories, Remoteness Areas (showing only the top two levels of the hierarchy: S/T-RA)

Example:

S/T RA		Name
1		NEW SOUTH WALES
	0	Major Cities of Australia
	1	Inner Regional Australia
	2	Outer Regional Australia
	3	Remote Australia
	4	Very Remote Australia
	5	Migratory

The Spatial Units

Contents >> Remoteness Structure >> The Spatial Units

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Remoteness Area (RA)

Within a S/T, each RA represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas which share common characteristics of remoteness. While statistical data classed to this structure may be available by S/T, characteristics of remoteness are determined in the context of Australia as a whole. Therefore, not all RAs are represented in each S/T. The categories are:

- Major Cities of Australia: CDs with an average Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) index value of 0 to 0.2
- Inner Regional Australia: CDs with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4
- Outer Regional Australia: CDs with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92
- Remote Australia: CDs with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53
- Very Remote Australia: CDs with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 10.53
- Migratory: composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs (see Chapter 2).

Delimitation of Remoteness Areas

The delimitation criteria for RAs are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) and the National Key Centre For Social Applications of GIS (GISCA). ARIA+ measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre in each of five size classes. For more information on how ARIA+ is defined see the **Information Papers: ABS Views on Remoteness, 2001** (cat. no. 1244.0) and **Information Paper: Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia, Jun 2001** (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001). Also refer to **Census Geography Paper (cat. no. 03/01), ASGC Remoteness Classification: Purpose and Use**, available from the ABS web site.

RA code

RAs are identified by unique one-digit codes within each state/territory. For unique Australia-wide identification, each RA must be used in conjunction with the S/T code.

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Mesh Blocks

[Contents >> Mesh Blocks](#)

MESH BLOCKS

Purpose

The Spatial Units

This section contains the following subsection :

Purpose

The Spatial Units

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents >> Mesh Blocks >> Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

Mesh Blocks are a small area unit that was first introduced by the ABS for the 2006 Census. They will not be fully integrated with the ASGC. They will however, be fully integrated into the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for the 2011 Census. For further information regarding the ASGS see Chapter 14.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Spatial Units

Contents >> Mesh Blocks >> The Spatial Units

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Mesh Block (MB)

A Mesh Block is intended as a base building block and only limited Census data (basic population and dwelling counts) will be released at this level. Unlike the CD, they will not be used as a collection unit. Mesh Blocks do not aggregate to CDs.

Mesh Blocks have been identified by their predominant land use: residential, commercial, agricultural, parkland etc. In residential areas Mesh Blocks will generally contain between 30 to 60 dwellings. For more information regarding Mesh Blocks please refer to the **Information Paper: Draft Mesh Blocks Australia 2005** (cat. no. 1209.0.55.001) and to the earlier **Information Paper: Mesh Blocks Australia 2003** (cat. no. 1209.0). To download the Mesh Blocks digital boundaries please refer to **Mesh Blocks Digital Boundaries Australia 2006** (cat. no. 1209.0.55.002) on the ABS web site.

MB Code

MBs are identified by a unique eleven-digit code within each S/T.

Example:

10000010000 is MB 0000010000 of New South Wales
50007680000 is MB 0007680000 of Western Australia

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Special purpose ASGC codes

Contents >> Special purpose ASGC codes

SPECIAL PURPOSE ASGC CODES

Purpose

Main Structure

Statistical Region Structure

This section contains the following subsection :

- Purpose
- Main Structure
- Statistical Region Structure

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Purpose

[Contents](#) >> [Special purpose ASGC codes](#) >> [Purpose](#)

PURPOSE

To allow data to be coded when only incomplete location information is available, a series of special purpose codes has been created for each hierarchical level within the ASGC's Main Structure and for SRs within the SR Structure. These codes are used when people provide limited address details or have no fixed place of abode.

Special purpose codes enable data to be coded to the broadest hierarchical level reported. For example, a reported address may be sufficiently detailed to allow it to be coded to a Capital City SD within a S/T, even though it cannot be coded to an SSD within that Capital City SD.

Coding data to a higher level unit in a hierarchical classification without also coding it to the lower levels would cause the data value for the higher unit to no longer equal the sum of data values for the lower units. Special purpose (i.e. dummy area) codes have therefore been created for each hierarchical level in the Main Structure and for SRs within the SR Structure, to which geographically undefined data can be classified.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Main Structure

[Contents](#) >> [Special purpose ASGC codes](#) >> [Main Structure](#)

MAIN STRUCTURE

In the Main Structure special purpose codes relate to, in ascending hierarchical order: SLAs, SSDs, SDs and S/Ts.

Special purpose SLA codes

Four-digit SLA codes ending with 99 are reserved for coding undefined area data to SLA level. The first two digits of undefined SLA codes are normally in the range 00-89.

Example:

0199 Greater Hobart Undefined

1399 Lyell Undefined

Information required to be coded at SLA level but only able to be coded at SSD level, is coded to the undefined SLA within the defined SSD.

Example:

SD SSD SLA

20 Mersey-Lyell 15 Lyell 1399 Lyell Undefined

Information required to be coded at SLA level but only able to be coded at SD level, is coded to the undefined SLA of the undefined SSD within the defined SD.

Example:

SD SSD SLA

05 Sydney 88 Sydney Undefined 0099 Sydney Undefined

A number of SLA codes within the range 0099-9999 are reserved for specific applications.

- Code 0099 is reserved for the undefined SLA in each capital city SD.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 05 88 0099 Sydney Undefined

- Code 9899 is reserved for the undefined SLA within an undefined SD, within a defined S/T. For example, when information is required to be coded at SLA level but is only able to be coded at the S/T level, it is coded to SLA 9899.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 88 88 9899 New South Wales Undefined

8 88 88 9899 Australian Capital Territory Undefined

- Code 9099 is reserved for the undefined SLA within an undefined SD, within an undefined S/T (see next page). For example, when information is required to be coded at SLA level but is only able to be coded at the Australia level, it is coded to SLA 9099. This code is used to code Population Census data when usual residence information is not stated.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

0 88 88 9099 S/T Undefined, Not Stated for census purposes

- Code 9199 is used in 'usual residence' and similarly worded coding where the information is not applicable (e.g. children who had not been born five years ago).

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 88 88 9199 New South Wales, Not Applicable

- Code 9299 is used in usual residence and similarly worded coding when the information relates to overseas.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

3 88 88 9299 Queensland, Overseas

- Code 9399 is used as a dummy LGA to enable S/T totals to be produced for some LGA output from the Censuses of Population and Housing. In such circumstances, code 9399 equates to the aggregated unincorporated SLAs in each S/T.

Example:

S/T LGA

7 9399 Northern Territory, Aggregation of unincorporated SLAs

- Code 9499 is used for persons with no fixed place of abode, including children in care, persons in prison etc.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

4 88 88 9499 South Australia, No fixed abode

Special purpose SD and SSD codes

The two-digit code 88 is reserved for coding undefined area information to SSD and SD levels. A dummy SD, with an SD code of 88, exists for every S/T in the Main Structure, except Other Territories. Similarly there is a dummy SSD for every SD, except for Other Territories.

Example:

S/T SD SSD

1 New South Wales 88 New South Wales Undefined 05 Sydney 88 Sydney Undefined

Special purpose S/T code

Information is coded to S/T Undefined when address details specify Australia only (i.e. without S/T details). The S/T code for S/T Undefined is 0. This code is also used to code Population Census data when usual residence is not stated.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

0 88 88 9099 S/T Undefined or for Population Census purposes - Not stated

[Contents >> Special purpose ASGC codes >> Statistical Region Structure](#)

STATISTICAL REGION STRUCTURE

In the SR Structure, special purpose codes relate to SLAs, SRs and S/Ts.

Special purpose SLA codes

See Chapter 10.

Special purpose SR codes

In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, the two-digit code 98 is reserved for coding undefined area data to the SR level.

Example:

S/T SR SLA

5 98 9899 Western Australia Undefined

In the remaining S/Ts (Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Other Territories) there is only one SR, so undefined SR level information is coded to an undefined SLA within each S/T's one defined SR (code 04).

Example:

S/T SR SLA

8 04 9899 Australian Capital Territory Undefined

Special purpose S/T code

See Special purpose S/T code above.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Use of the ASGC in publication of ABS statistics

[Contents >> Use of the ASGC in publication of ABS statistics](#)

USE OF THE ASGC IN PUBLICATION OF ABS STATISTICS

Guidelines

This section contains the following subsection :
Guidelines

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Guidelines

[Contents >> Use of the ASGC in publication of ABS statistics >> Guidelines](#)

GUIDELINES

The ASGC was created to allow spatially comparable statistics to be collected and published by the ABS. However, this objective can only be achieved if the ASGC is consistently applied across all statistical work. The following publishing guidelines are therefore used in the ABS:

- Where possible, each table relates to one particular ASGC structure only. This structure is identified in the table heading or a table footnote.
- Where possible, the ASGC structure is represented in full. Omissions of one or more hierarchical levels in one structure are however, permissible. For example, the entire CD level or entire SSD level of the Main Structure may be omitted. All omissions are noted and explained in the publication.
- Partial omissions from an ASGC structure may also be necessary because of confidentiality considerations. When ASGC spatial units have to be combined, the combinations are confined to spatial units which are:
 - within one ASGC structure
 - at the same hierarchical level
 - within one spatial unit at the next hierarchical level.

For example, in the Main Structure, two or more SLAs are combined within an SSD or, two or more SSDs within an SD.

- In certain circumstances it is permissible in one table, to publish statistics which relate to more than one ASGC structure, for example, if statistics are required on LGAs and SDs. Extreme care is required, however, to ensure the statistics being cross-classified cover the same total area. For example, in some states and the Northern Territory, LGAs cover only part of the S/T, while SDs cover the entire S/T. A cross-classification of LGAs within SDs would therefore not be feasible if S/T totals were required. In this case, use of the Main Structure or the SR Structure would be more appropriate.
- ASGC spatial unit names are shown in table stubs or column headings. These should conform with those in the ASGC or authorised ASGC subsets.
- Each file, document or publication containing statistics classified according to the ASGC specifies the applicable ASGC edition. This is necessary to ensure users can compare like areas across different collections.
- Care should be taken in publishing ASGC spatial unit codes. In publications containing combined national, S/T data, ASGC spatial unit codes are quoted in conjunction with spatial unit names or prefixed by S/T codes to allow unique identification throughout Australia.

Maintenance of the ASGC

[Contents >> Maintenance of the ASGC](#)

MAINTENANCE OF THE ASGC

[Introduction](#)

[Spatial Unit and Code Changes](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

[Introduction](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> Maintenance of the ASGC >> Introduction](#)

INTRODUCTION

The first edition of the ASGC had an effective date of 5 July 1984 and adopted the geographical areas already in use in the ABS for some time prior to that date. In 1988, the ASGC underwent a review and most of the findings were incorporated into the 1991 edition of the ASGC. A further review of the ASGC commenced in early 1996 and was completed in 1997. This review did not result in any changes to the ASGC spatial units or their delimitation criteria. However a decision was made to review the existing capital city SDs, and S Dists, to ensure they will meet statistical requirements for at least the next twenty years. Sections of State were also reviewed to determine additional classes for the Urban Centres. The outcomes of these reviews were implemented in the ASGC 2001 Edition.

Prior to 1993, the ASGC was updated on an as-needed basis which generally resulted in updates occurring once or twice a year. Since 1994, the ASGC has been updated annually (with the exception of 1997, in which no update occurred) with an effective date of 1 July. The nine editions of the ASGC manual between 1984 and 1990 were known as Edition 1 to Edition 9. By contrast, the five editions between 1991 and 1995 were known as Edition 2.1 to Edition 2.5. From 1996, the ASGC edition is known by the year it becomes effective, e.g. the 2005 Edition.

Earlier editions of the ASGC manual were kept up-to-date by the issue of replacement pages. Editions 1 to 9 formed one series of editions. Similarly, Edition 2.1 was the base edition for the second series of ASGC manuals, which included Editions 2.1 to 2.5. The 1996, 2001 and 2006 Editions were published as part of three-volume sets of Statistical Geography publications relating to those census years. The 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003,

2004, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2009 Editions were each published as a single volume. The 2010 Edition is published as a single volume.

SPATIAL UNIT AND CODE CHANGES

Essentially, the ASGC is updated in response to two types of changes:

- Externally controlled spatial unit changes. These changes relate to administrative or political areas which have been adopted as spatial units in the ASGC. The ABS has no control over changes to these types of spatial units. The most usual changes of this type are changes to LGAs made by state and territory governments. These changes can range from LGA boundary variations to the creation or amalgamation of whole LGAs and usually require consequential changes to related ASGC spatial units such as SLAs.
- All other changes. These cover changes to ABS-defined spatial units, such as SLAs created within LGAs or changes to SSD boundaries, or changes to the principles and criteria which govern the delimitation of these spatial units. On occasion, changes of this type are triggered by changes to administrative or political areas described above. More usually, changes of this type result from ad hoc or systematic reviews.

Changes in spatial units are often, though not always, accompanied by changes to the spatial unit codes. Therefore it is important when referencing spatial units in publications or tabulations, to quote the ASGC edition as well as the names and codes of these units. The main causes of spatial unit code changes between ASGC editions are:

- changes to spatial unit areas, especially where changes are significant
- spatial unit name changes, especially in the case of LGAs and SLAs
- consequential changes i.e. where one change forces another
- general code structure revisions.

Coordination of ASGC maintenance

Maintenance of the ASGC and ASGC-related material and products is shared by the ABS central and state offices. It is coordinated by Geography Section which also has responsibility for the ASGC manual, as well as providing assistance to users.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

ASGC-related material and products

[Contents >> ASGC-related material and products](#)

ASGC-RELATED MATERIAL AND PRODUCTS

[Introduction](#)

[ASGC-Related Products and Services](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

Introduction

ASGC-Related Products and Services

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> ASGC-related material and products >> Introduction](#)

INTRODUCTION

The ASGC manual is essentially a reference document. Consequently, additional and more specialised ASGC-related material and products are needed to assist application of the ASGC to statistical work. Many of these materials and products are available for sale to ABS clients, as well as for use by ABS personnel. The following is a listing of some of the more important types of related material and products.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

ASGC-Related Products and Services

[Contents >> ASGC-related material and products >> ASGC-Related Products and Services](#)

ASGC-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

National Localities Index (NLI) and AddressCoder@ABS

The National Localities Index Australia (cat. no. 1252.0.55.001) was a coding tool designed to assist users assign the ASGC Main Structure codes to street address information. The last release of the NLI was in 2007 and the NLI is no longer produced.

The AddressCoder@ABS was a web service that assigned a SLA or CD code to an address or a list of addresses. It was available to external users who registered with the National Data Network (NDN). This service is no longer available.

To replace the localities file of the NLI a Locality to SLA correspondence file was created for 2010. It is available on request by contacting ABS Geography at <geography@abs.gov.au> (see paragraph on Locality to SLA Correspondences).

Maps and digital boundaries

Maps depicting past years ASGC boundaries are included in the various editions of this publication from 1996 onwards. Maps depicting the 1981 and 1986 Census Editions were included in the respective Census Publications. Maps of the ASGC Edition 2010 Main Structure are included in this publication.

Maps of CDs for the 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing are available in PDF format on request for a fee. To obtain these maps please contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) on telephone number 1300 135 070 or alternatively you can contact them by emailing <client.services@abs.gov.au>.

Digital boundaries for 1981 (pre ASGC), 1986 and from 1991 onwards are available in MapInfo interchange format (.MID .MIF) on several CDROM products. The 2010 ASGC digital boundaries are also available in MapInfo interchange format and ESRI Shapefile format, these boundaries can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge from **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries (Intercensal) Australia 2010** (cat. no. 1259.0.30.001).

Labels and Codes

Listings of ASGC labels and codes are available for all structures and all editions of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. The latest listings are available electronically as ASCII comma delimited text files and can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge from **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) - Electronic Structures 01 Jul 2010** (cat. no. 1216.0.15.001).

ASGC correspondences

The ABS has developed a large number of correspondences between editions of the ASGC and between the various structures. These are available electronically as ASCII comma delimited text files and some can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge. Correspondences available on the web site can be accessed from **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Correspondences, 01 Jul 2010** (cat. no. 1216.0.15.002) and **ABS Postal Area Concordances, Aug 2006** (cat. no. 2905.0.55.001). We also have a large number of other correspondence products available by request. To obtain these correspondence products please contact ABS Geography at <geography@abs.gov.au>.

Locality to Statistical Local Area (SLA) Correspondences

The Locality to SLA Correspondence is a file to assist coding to the ASGC.

The correspondence will facilitate the coding of addresses to Statistical Local Area (SLA) or Local Government Area (LGA) on the basis of State, Locality and Postcode. It effectively replaces the localities file of the National Localities Index (NLI) which was discontinued after the ASGC 2007. It does not replace the NLI streets file. Where a locality is split between two or more SLAs, it is allocated to the SLA which contains the most Geocoded National Address File (GNAF) Address points.

Alias and alternative names for localities are treated as if they were legitimate localities in their own right. No indication is given whether the locality is a gazetted locality of an alias/

alternative. Similarly, alternative locality postcode combinations are treated as a legitimate combination in their own right. No indication is given which of the postcodes is officially assigned by Australia Post. The file therefore cannot be used to validate postcodes or localities.

The Locality to SLA correspondence file is available on request from ABS Geography by emailing <geography@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Outcome from the ASGC Review

[Contents >> The Outcome from the ASGC Review](#)

THE OUTCOME FROM THE ASGC REVIEW

[Introduction](#)

[The ASGS](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

[Introduction](#)

[The ASGS](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> The Outcome from the ASGC Review >> Introduction](#)

INTRODUCTION

The ABS finalised the ASGC review with the release of the [Information Paper: Outcome from the Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2008](#) (cat. no. 1216.0.55.002) on the 25 July 2008. This paper explains that the current ASGC will be replaced in July 2011 with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS is broadly similar to the proposal in the earlier [Information Paper: Review of the Australian Standard Statistical Classification 2007](#) (cat. no. 1216.0.55.001) with a number of important changes, which are a result of stakeholder consultation.

A further paper calling for submissions on the design of the Statistical Areas 3 and 4 and the capital cities: [Information Paper: Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3](#) (cat. no.

1216.0.55.003) was released in May 2010.

For more detail about the review please refer to these three papers.

[Previous Page](#)

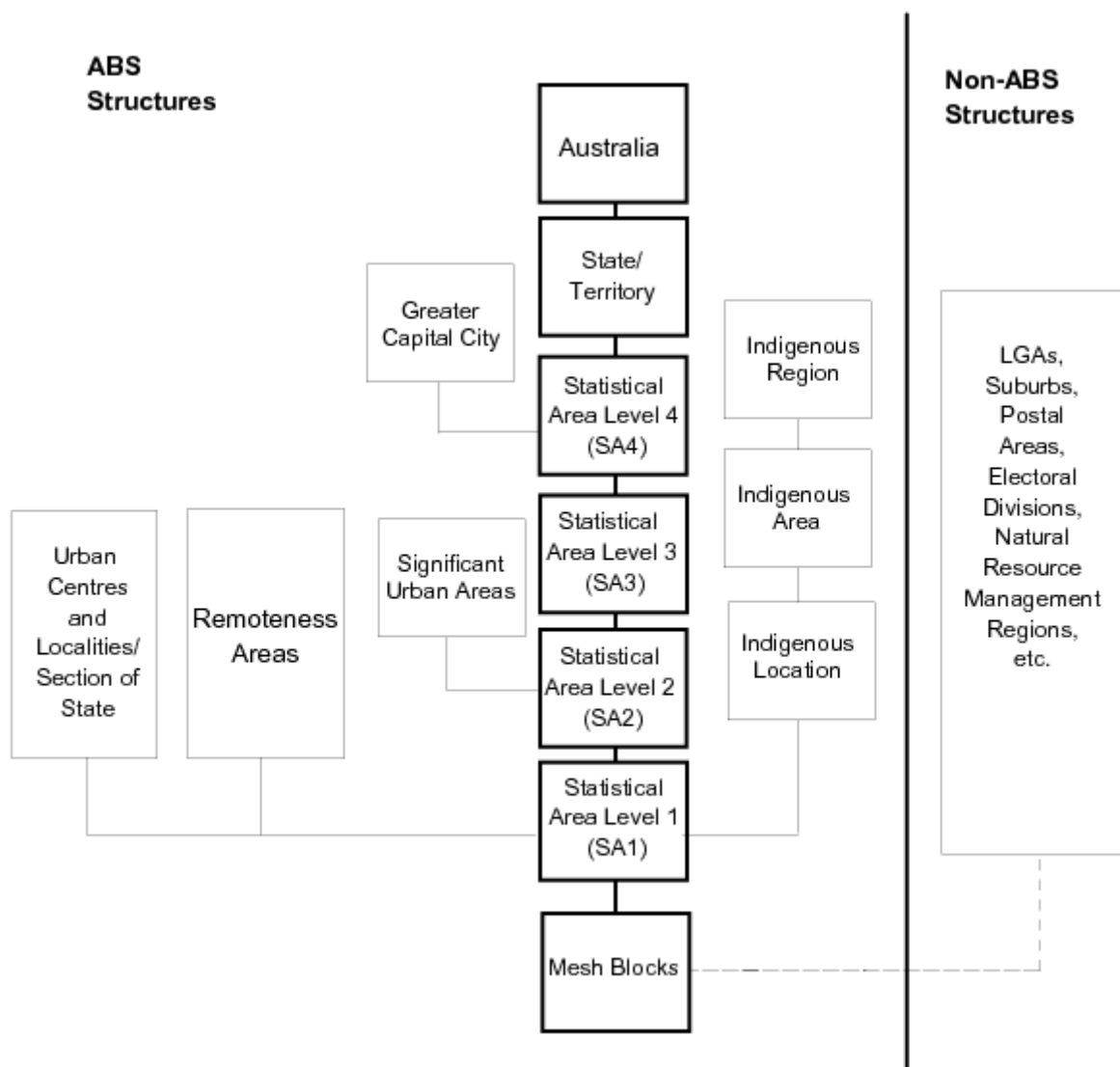
[Next Page](#)

The ASGS

[Contents >> The Outcome from the ASGC Review >> The ASGS](#)

THE ASGS

The diagram below summarises the structure of the ASGS.



The ASGS manual with digital Statistical Areas 1 to 4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Area boundaries will be published in December 2010.

The ASGS will become the new basis for the publication of the complete range of ABS

statistics. The ABS encourages its adoption outside the ABS to facilitate the cross comparison of spatial statistics. The ASGC will continue to be published in its present form until July 2010, with a final abbreviated version published in July 2011, excluding Census Collection Districts (CDs). The 2011 Census of Population and Housing will be released on the 2011 ASGS and the abbreviated ASGC.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1) are the smallest area for which a wide range of Population Census data will be released. They will be comparable in size to the current Census Collection District (CD).

Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2) are designed to reflect functional areas. They are the level for which the majority of the ABS sub-state intercensal data will be available. SA2s will have a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000 and an average population of approximately 10,000 people.

Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3) are a medium sized unit with a more variable population from approximately 30,000 to 130,000. They represent a regional break of each state and territory.

Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics and will have a population of approximately 200,000. They represent the broadest break up within each state and territory.

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas define the socio-economic extent of each of the state and territory capital cities and consequently extend well beyond the urban edge of the city.

Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State and Remoteness structures require data from the 2011 Census to be defined. The ABS intends to generate UC/L boundaries on a similar basis to the past. The move to Mesh Blocks will create some differences as they allow a more precise definition of the urban-rural boundary.

The non-ABS structures will be developed up to and beyond the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

Those who have any questions about the new Geography, should e-mail [<geography@abs.gov.au>](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

The Classification Structures

[Contents >> The Classification Structures](#)

THE CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURES

Main Structure - Broad

Main Structure - Detailed

Statistical District Structure

Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic

Statistical Region Structure - Broad

Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

This section contains the following subsection :
ASGC Classification Structures

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

ASGC Classification Structures

[Contents >> The Classification Structures >> ASGC Classification Structures](#)
ASGC CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURES

The Classification Structures are available as Excel files on the Downloads page in this product. They are also available in **Chapter 15 The Classification Structures** in the pdf of this publication, which is also available for download on the Downloads page.

The Classification Structures outlined in the 2010 publication are as follows:

- Main Structure - Broad
- Main Structure - Detailed
- Statistical District Structure
- Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas
- Statistical Region Structure - Broad
- Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Maps

[Contents >> Maps](#)

MAPS

2010 ASGC Maps

- Geographic Australia
- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Western Australia
- Tasmania

- Northern Territory
- Australian Capital Territory
- Other Territories

This section contains the following subsection :
2010 ASGC Maps

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

2010 ASGC Maps

[Contents >> Maps >> 2010 ASGC Maps](#)

This document was added or updated on 22/09/2010.

2010 ASGC MAPS

Maps are available in **Chapter 16 Maps** in the pdf of this publication, which is available from the Downloads page. The maps are also available as a separate pdf file for the whole of Australia, which is also available from the Downloads page of this product.

The 2010 ASGC Maps contained within the 2010 publication are as follows:

- Australia
 - Geographic Australia
- New South Wales
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Sydney Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Victoria
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Melbourne Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Queensland
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Brisbane Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- South Australia
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Adelaide Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Western Australia
 - Statistical Divisions

- Perth Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Tasmania
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Northern Territory
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Darwin Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Australian Capital Territory
 - Statistical Divisions
 - Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas
- Other Territories
 - Statistical Local Areas

[Previous Page](#)

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

A	Area
AC	Aboriginal council
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Adel.	Adelaide
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
B	Borough
Bal	Balance
BSD	Brisbane Statistical Division
C	City
C'maine	Castlemaine
C. Goldfields	Central Goldfields
CD	collection district
DC	District Council
excl.	excluding
E.	East
Gr.	Greater
incl.	including
I./Is	Island
LGA	local government area
M'borough	Maryborough
M	Municipality
M. Downs	Murrumba Downs
MB	Mesh Block
MSR	major statistical region
Mt C'tha	Mount Coot-tha

N.	North/Northern
Norw. P'ham St Ptrs	Norwood, Payneham and St Peters
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OT	Other Territories
P'sula	Peninsula
Port Pirie C Dists	Port Pirie City and Districts
Pt	Part
Qld	Queensland
R	Regional Council
RA	Remoteness Area
RC	Rural City
RegC	Regional Council
Res.	Reservoir
S	Shire
S'bank-D'lands	Southbank-Docklands
S'saye	Strathfieldsaye
S C'st	Sunshine Coast
S Dist	statistical district
S.	South/Southern
S/T	state or territory
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SOS	Section of State
SR	statistical region
SRS	statistical region sector
SSD	statistical subdivision
T	Town
Tas.	Tasmania
UC/L	Urban Centre/Locality
Vic.	Victoria
W.	West
WA	Western Australia
Wtrs	Waters

Effective Dates of ASGC Editions (Appendix)

APPENDIX 1 EFFECTIVE DATES OF ASGC EDITIONS

ASGC EDITIONS

ASGC EDITIONS	
Edition	Effective Date
1	5 July 1984
2	29 July 1985
3	1 January 1986

4	1 July 1986
5	1 January 1988
6	1 July 1988
7	1 January 1989
8	1 July 1989
9	1 July 1990
2.1	1 January 1991
2.2	1 July 1992
2.3	1 July 1993
2.4	1 July 1994
2.5	1 July 1995
1996	1 July 1996
1998	1 July 1998
1999	1 July 1999
2000	1 July 2000
2001	1 July 2001
2002	1 July 2002
2003	1 July 2003
2004	1 July 2004
2005	1 July 2005
2006	1 July 2006
2007	1 July 2007
2008	1 July 2008
2009	1 July 2009
2010	1 July 2010

Changes to Geographical Areas 2006 - 2010 (Appendix)

APPENDIX 2 CHANGES TO GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS 2006 - 2010

A list of changes to Geographical Areas are available in **Appendix 2** in the pdf of this publication as well as separately. Both are available from the Downloads page.

This Appendix details all of the changes to Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Local Areas and Statistical Districts between ASGC Editions 2006 and 2010.

The 2006 - 2010 changes to Geographical Areas that are contained within the 2010 publication are as follows:

- New South Wales
 - Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivision
 - Statistical District
 - Statistical Local Area
- Victoria
 - Statistical Subdivision
 - Statistical District
 - Statistical Local Area
- Queensland

- Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivision
- Statistical District
- Statistical Local Area
- South Australia
 - Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivision
 - Statistical Local Area
- Western Australia
 - Statistical Division
 - Statistical Subdivision
 - Statistical Local Area
- Tasmania
 - Statistical Local Area
- Northern Territory
 - Statistical Subdivision
 - Statistical Local Area
- Australian Capital Territory
 - Statistical Subdivision
 - Statistical Local Area

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website – except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark – is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence